

## Inside Report On Wildlife Management

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Once again the hush of silence fell over the woodlot as the chainsaw growled to a halt. Another 10-inch red maple lay prone on the leaf littered woodland floor.

Most of this tree would end up in a wood stove next November. The smaller limbs would be stacked with the remains of several trees which had been recently felled. The collective mass of branches piled on the edge of the woods would serve a dual role. Throughout this winter, deer would nibble at the succulent buds which long ago had escaped the deer's grasp. For several years ahead, small mammals, birds and other creatures would find shelter from the perils Mother Nature would test them by.

The boldest member of a roving band of chickadees perched on the maple's out-stretched form. From this vantage point, the bird peered at the man a scant two feet away. Both had seen one another many times during the past months. Beyond the point of confrontation, the landscape was dominated by aspiring red and white oaks reaching for the new found November sunlight. A few poorly formed trees remained upright. Some bore blue tattoos from the forester's paintgun. The others had already been cut.

Still standing were two old hickories marred by caverns to their souls and one hollow basswood which seemed to have avoided the forester's eye. In reality, he had not overlooked these trees, not suited to become lumber. Rather, he had scrutinized these carefully and left the screech owl and the gray squirrel their hickory flavored homes. Generations of raccoons would still continue to retire to the basswood after long nocturnal treks about the forest.

To the uninitiated, this woods loomed of despair and destruction for the local wildlife and the landowner. Actually, just the opposite was true. Next year the red maple stumps would shoot up sprouts the deer would savor all year long. A salad bar of plants would thrive in the sunlight that had long been absent, providing many creatures critical habitat needs. Deer, wintering in the nearby hemlocks, would venture into the cut stand may a frigid day and satisfy hungry bellies. Some of the hemlocks had recently been thinned to build a barn. The remaining green spires and the young replacements would provide a warm resting location for many woodland natives during the worst cold spells old man winter could drum up.

From his birth place carved in the dead oak snag, the chickadee would see new neighbors in the spring. Several species of warblers, as well as other birds that normally passed by this portion of the ridge, would take up residence. The chickadee would not survive to see the coming of many wildlife species since the changes in plant associations caused by the cutting would take time to develop. In three years, a cock ruffed grouse would find the log left in the clearcut purposely for a drumming site. Fuzzy grouse chicks would replenish the populations because the landowner created a key structure for the birds to center their reproductive activities around. Turkeys would scratch for acorns under the vigorously growing oaks for years to come.

These are a few of the wildlife changes the woodlot would author because of the harvest of timber, but they did not occur by accident. The landowner bought the woods 10 years ago for many reasons. Like the 500,000 forest owners in New York he hoped to gain some economic returns from the harvest of firewood, lumber and commercial sawlogs. He also wanted a place his family could use for outdoor recreation and to just plain enjoy. Recognizing he was not very knowledgeable about forestry, he sought assistance from the Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Forestry Unit.

The forester met with the landowner to tour the woods and discuss management possibilities. Clearly establishing what the landowner's objectives were and plotting a course to achieve those goals was the next step. The forester had suggested a thinning of the hemlock stand to improve growth and better develop the potential of the deer wintering area on the property. The hardwoods on top of the ridge had plenty of undesirable shaped trees among oaks that could use more growing space. Several years of

firewood for the woodstove could be found here. In fact, there was enough to sell to neighbors and friends. The forester helped market the hemlock by doing such things as marking the trees to cut, estimating the volume to sell, furnishing a sample contract for the timber sale, as well as others.

One of the landowner's most desired objectives was to improve the abundance as well as the diversity of wildlife on the property. The forester had suggested contacting a wildlife professional at the DEC office for further guidance. The wildlife biologist had recommended numerous options to consider. The biologist had suggested saving the den trees in the hardwoods as well as the dead snags for nesting cavities. He also had encouraged cutting the firewood during the fall to provide stump suckers for deer browse. A small clear cut in the aspen grove was mentioned as a technique to enhance the grouse population.

The design of well construction brushpiles for wildlife shelter was discussed. Both the forester and biologist had encouraged reading publications for the woodland owner so that he might better understand its management.

Why is forest management important to wildlife resources in New York? According to a report by Thomas Considine of the USDA Forest Service published in 1984 that concerned New York's timber resources, over 60 percent of the state is forested and growing. Not only is the area of forest increasing, some 1.2 million acres between 1968 and 1980, the net growth measured by volume is more than twice the volume of wood being removed. Over 80 percent of New York's forest land is classified commercial, lying outside the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. The trend is obviously toward more forests and, thus, more forest wildlife species. Since much of this forest land could stand thinning and removal of poor trees, potential exists for improving the quality of our forests as well as improving wildlife habitat.

It is often very difficult for private landowners who would like to do things to enhance wildlife populations on their property to do so, simply because it's too costly. Forest management, however, provides a means of generating revenue at the same time wildlife habitat is improved. About 18 million acres of New York's forest are privately owned; unfortunately, a significant proportion of these owners practice no forest management because they do not understand the potential benefits. Generally, it can be said New York's forest conditions are improving, but numerous opportunities exist to further improve our forests and the associated wildlife resources.

## Athlete of the Week

Dansville High students have been cited for performances by being chosen for Athlete of the Week honors.

Brad West was selected in basketball for his play in games against Bath and LeRoy. He averaged 7.5 points and six rebounds in the two games. He also was named "defensive player of the game" against Bath and "hustler of the game" in each contest.

For girls' basketball, Krista Yaeger was the nominee for her performance in a game against LeRoy. The senior captain guard scored 16 points, pulled down 12 rebounds and had five assists.

Mark Hussey was chosen from the wrestling team. The senior gained a fifth place in the Newark Tournament.

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## Doubles Keglers On Line

Scores soared in Tuesday Doubles League matches at Brae Burn lanes as four kegletes posted 600 totals, paced by Dick MacDonald who crashed 689 on games of 212, 232 and 245.

Tim Campbell was runnerup with 678 on lines of 223, 217 and 238. Dave Tolner had lines of 213 and 225 enroute to 635 and Dennis Nolan had 603 with top games of 206 and 215.

Rolling honor lines were R. MacDonald, 232; H. Pifer, 230; P. Miller, 215; B. Scheiwer, 214, 202; G. Sullivan, 213; C. George, 210, 208; B. Bonner, 207; R. Schneble, 205; B. Sawdey, 203; D. Smith, 200, 202.

Bennett Bros. lead the team race with a 121 1/2-82 1/2 record. Duffy's follow with 118-86, Jack's show 112 1/2-91 1/2 and Mineo's 111-93. This week, Bennetts rolled high single of 477 and high triple of 1, 283.

## Two Crash Maples For Wayland Award

Charles Dengert and Bob Newcomb shared honors in the Chamber of Commerce league at Bowlway this week with matching 234's but Dengert also captured top series with a 619.

Lewis Galton had top lines of 215 and 204 for an even 600 total. Also in the 200 column were J. Tonkery, 224; R. Lewis, 222; S. Rathburn, 217; M. Collier, 211; F. Fox, 201; D. Brooks, 200.

Bonadonna's Market bumped St. George Funeral Home from first place on the strength of pin count, each sharing second round 10 win totals. Tonkery's Pro Shop moved into third, T-Shirt Island held fourth and R.W. Heil Insurance slipped to fifth. Suburban Propane jumped two spots with The Coffee Cup, Bairds, Hemlock Auto, and Tonkery's Bowlway rounding out the standings.

Suburban Propane rolled high team series of 3,032.

## MORE SPORTS ON PAGE 15

## Classic Gals Tip Pins for Top Sets

Monday Nite Ladies Classic League matches this week at Brae Burn lanes saw eight kegletes reach the 500 level.

Setting the pace were Ann Dixon, 199, 192, 178, 569; Karen Henry, 204, 187, 164, 555; Pat Masolotte, 195, 127, 232, 554; Lori Ingram, 205, 177, 171, 533; Karen Pifer, 182, 164, 195, 541; Linda Shay, 178, 164, 171, 513; Bonnie Walker, 155, 160, 194, 509; Connie Walker, 172, 158, 176, 506. Rolling high games were B. Kreiley, 181, 171 and B. Weidman, 179.

Vogt's Dairy leads the team race with a 257 1/2-162 1/2 record while Dansville Electric is second with 231-189.

## Pin Teams Chase 'A' Loop Crown

Val Bru Holstein has moved to the top in the tight second half race for the Men's "A" League title at Brae Burn lanes.

Following Monday night's action, the team held a 17-3 record while Dansville Muffler-Brake and Convenient Food Mart tied for second with 16-4. American Legion is next at 15-5 and Brae Burn with a 13-7 mark.

Match results include Val Bru 4, Mac's Pro Shop 0; Convenient 4, Protectives 0; Muffler-Brake 4, HBO 0; Main Barbershop 3, Hook and Ladder 1; Jackson Hose 3, American Legion 1; Brae Burn 3, Red Top 1; NAPA Auto Parts 3, Jack's Place 1; Chamberlins 3, Dale's Yarn Shop 1.

The Convenient entry rolled high single of 1,048 and high triple of 3,001.

Individual scoring laurels went to Jay DeWispelars who fashioned a 623 set on games of 216, 223 and 184.

Others joining the "200 Club" are L. George, 236; R. Dixon, 227; R. Johnson, 223; J. Chapman, 216; J. Wolfer, 215, 210; R. LaFore, 212, 210; R. Hart, 211, 210; L. Palmer, 210; T. Kiehle, 209; J. Repass, 208; H. Repass, 205, 200;

## Girl Cagers Set Game at Cal-Mum

Coach Pat Shaffer's Dansville High girls' basketball team will be part of a tripleheader at Caledonia-Mumford Friday.

The junior varsity contest will open at 4:15 p.m. with the varsity to follow at 6 p.m. The two games come before the Dansville and Cal-Mum boys' varsity squads tangle in a Livingston Conference game.

Last week, the girls' team dropped a 57-42 decision to LeRoy. The winners fronted 15-8 at the quarter, 39-19 at the half and 49-34 at the three-quarter mark.

Krista Yaeger paced Dansville with 16 points and 12 rebounds. Tricia Hurlburt scored 10 points and Kelly Wester added six and grabbed eight rebounds.

In the preliminary, LeRoy's junior varsity scored a 44-38 victory over Dansville.

## Tri-County Kegler Posts 664 Series

Harv's Keglers belted a 664 set on games of 246, 217 and 204 to pace scorers in Tri-County League matches last week at Brae Burn lanes.

Runnerup was D. Levee with a 607 which included a 236 line. Also on the honor list were M. Perry, 250; R. Johnson, 228; P. Gilbert, 220; R. Kreiley, 225, 200; J. Diorio, 224; D. Barvis, 215; D. Smith, 214; L. George, 213; T. Amico, 212; J. Repass, 209, 203; R. Schneble, 206; M. McCray, 204, 204; K. Chapman, 204; W. Pfuntner, 204; F. Ace, 200; R. Daly, 200; G. Walton, 200.

Vogt's Dairy rolled high single of 1,079 and Larry's Collision had high series of 3,000.

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